

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00287 211738Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01
ACDA-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/122 W

-----073335 211746Z /46

P R 211230Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 309

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CF FR CU KN UR ST GB

SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS ON CONGO

1. CHARGE MET WITH FRENCH AMB DUFOURCQ, MAR 17. DUFOURCQ SAID THAT ALTHOUGH INFOR WAS UNCERIFIED, AND HE HAD NOT EVEN REPORTED IT TO PARIS, FRENCH NATIONALS LIVING IN POINTE-NOIRE HAVE TOLD HIM OVER PAST MONTH OF INCREASING CUBAN PRESENCE THERE. ON THIS BASIS SUFOURCQ CHARACTERIZES DEPT'S ESTIMATE OF 500 CUBANS IN CONGO AS TOO LOW.

2. ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ'S SOURCES, CUBANS HAVE SET UP THEIR OWN CINDER BLOCK PRODUCTION AND A GRAVEL DEPOT ON OUTSKIRTS OF POINTE NOIRE, ON LAKE TOWARD CABINDAN BORDER. CUBANS REPORTEDLY ARE AT WORK NIGHT AND DAY, WITH SOVIETS STANDING GUARD DUTY AROUND THEIR COMPOUND (THIS SEEMS FAR FETCHED). CINDER BLOCKS PRODUCED ARE ALLEGEDLY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW QUARTERS AND DINING HALLS FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRAZZA 00287 211738Z

INCREASED NUMBERS OF CUBANS. DUFOURCQ OBSERVED, AGAIN ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES, THAT SOVIET (COMMERCIAL) VESSELS LEAVING POINTE-NOIR NOW DO SO AT NIGHT, RATHER THAN DURING THE DAY. FURTHER, THAT CUBANS ARE BUSY EXTENDING AIR STRIP AT POINTE-NOIRE, ABOVE AND BEYOND REPAIR OF FOOT PRINTS, WHICH CUBANS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE AFTER HEAVY USE MADE OF STRIP DURING CUBAN OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA.

3. DUFOURCQ SAYS THAT HIS CONSUL GENERAL IN POINTE-NOIRE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE EVEN ON LOCATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE REPORTS WHICH ARE REACHING EMBASSY FROM COAST. (IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS, FRG DERIX TOLD US THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN CUBAN PRESENCE AND THAT EXTENSION OF AIR STRIP IN POINTE-NOIRE IS A PROJECT WHICH WAS AGREED TO LONG AGO. DERIX DID AGREE WITH DUFOURCQ THAT THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 40 CUBANS NEAR LOUBOMO DESPITE EARLIER RUMORS THAT THERE WERE ALMOST 5 TIMES THAT NUMBER.) NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO TRACK DOWN THESE REPORTS AND PROVIDE FOLLOW UP. FOR WHATEVER IT'S WORTH, CUBAN AMB TOLD CHARGE MAR 18 THAT WASHINGTON'S ESTIMATE OF OVER 500 CUBANS IN CONGO IS EXAGGERATED. FURTHER, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR EKONDY ALSO TOLD CHARGE MAR 20 THAT THERE ARE FEWER THAN 500 CUBANS IN CONGO, AND THAT ALTHOUGH SOME TENDED TO IMAGINE THOUSANDS, THIS WAS PATENTLY UNTRUE. EKONDY CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT CUBANS ARE INDEED LOCATED NEAR LAKE ON OUTSKIRTS OF POINTE-NOIRE, BUT THAT THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN THERE, AND ARE IN SAME NUMBERS AS BEFORE, TO SUPPORT PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. EKONDY VOLUNTEERED THAT GABON PRES BONGO HAD WARNED CONGOLESE THAT CUBANS IN CONGO MIGHT THREATEN STP (LIBREVILLE 629 NOTAL). CONCERNING AIR STRIP IMPROVEMENT, LOGISTICALLY WE SEE LITTLE ADVANTAGE FOR CUBANS TO STAGE OUT OF POINTE-NOIRE AS AGAINST LUANDA, AT LEAST IN ANY SOUTHERN INITIATIVE SUCH AS NAMIBIA OR ZIMBABWE. OPERATIONS TO IMPROVE STRIP MAY BE ACCREDITED, AS OTHER CUBAN ACTIVITIES, AS FOLLOW-UP TO CUBAN MINISTERIAL VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE DURING FEBRUARY (BRAZZAVILLE 157 AND 248 NOTAL).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRAZZA 00287 211738Z

4. DUFOURCQ CONTINUED, SAYING THAT SOVIETS HAVE BRACED THEMSELVES FOR A LONGER RUN EFFORT AT GAINING CONTROL HERE, BASING HOPES ON YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM OR WHO ARE STILL IN MOSCOW, AND EVEN A POSSIBLE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, LED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER NOUMAZALAY.

5. WHILE YHOMBY-OPANGO HAS BEEN INTERESED IN RECEIVING AN INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW, NONE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING, SAID DUFOURCQ, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN UP ON PUSHING SASSOU-NGUESSO. NEVERTHELESS, YHOMBY-OPANGO INTENDS TO STOP OFF IN MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO OR FROM NORTH KOREA, THIS JULY. (ACCORDING TO FRG AMB DERIX, SOVIET CHARGE KONDRATIEV TOLD HIM THAT KREMLIN WAS FAR TOO BUSY TO BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ANY TIME TO "SOMEONE LIKE YHOMBY-OPANGO").

6. LASTLY, DUFOURCQ VOLUNTEERED THAT HE SUSPECTED PRES MOBUTU TO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN TRANSFERRING ALLEGED NGOUABI ASSASSIN KIKADIDI TO CONGO FROM ZAIRE SHORTLY PRIOR TO KIKADIDI'S CAPTURE AND EXECUTION (SIMILAR TO TRANSFER IN OPPOSIT DIRECTIONS AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF DIAWARA AND MULELE).

7. FYI: IN ANOTHER CONNECTION, EKONDY HAS TOLD US THAT DUFOURCQ IS SOON TO BE REPLACED, SINCE GISCARD HIMSELF IS DISSATISFIED WITH

DUFOURCQ'S PERFORMANCE. END FYI.
KATZEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRAZZA00287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0735
Format: TEL
From: BRAZZAVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaablde.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9cde60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3261108
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH VIEWS ON CONGO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CF, FR, CU, KN, UR, ST, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9cde60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014